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ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

5 A user interactive apparatus for searching a universe
of financial instruments such as stocks, bonds, funds and
the like. The search is conducted with a filtering process
that involves performing n filter passes of the universe
with a computer system having a viewing screen, an input
device and an investment selection program. The filter
10 condition for each filter is from a plurality of parameter
limiters and a plurality of investment parameters. The
pluralities of criteria and of parameters are presented in
one area of the viewing screen. The program enables a user
to select the filter condition for the i^{th} filter pass from
15 the displayed criteria and parameters by operation of the
input device. A histogram is then displayed in a second
area of the viewing screen as an aid to the user in making
filter condition selections. The histogram shows the
population of financial instruments in different frequency
20 of occurrence categories for the user selections. The i^{th}
filter pass is executed upon a command provided in response
to user operation of the input device. The process is
repeated until the n^{th} filter pass has been performed.